

Anti-Panhandling Programs/Ordinances from Other Cities

Santa Monica, CA

- Solicitation is prohibited at the following locations:
 - Bus stops;
 - Public transportation vehicles or facilities;
 - A vehicle on public streets or alleyways;
 - Public parking lots or structures;
 - Outdoor dining areas of restaurants;
 - Within fifty feet of an automated teller machine; or
 - At a line of five or more people waiting to gain admission to a place.
- New ordinance up for final approval on Sept 16th prohibiting persons from conducting solicitation activities from the street furniture (includes panhandling as well as other forms of solicitation) at the Third Street Promenade. People would be free to use the street furniture to take breaks from that activity. The prohibition is directly analogous to the current prohibition in the street performance law that precludes performing from a City-owned chair or bench – the purpose of both laws are to prevent monopolization and ensure shared use for the purpose of respite.
- The ordinance would allow ample alternatives; solicitors could still seek donations on the Promenade and elsewhere in the City. Thus, the restriction is narrowly tailored to achieve its purpose of preserving public seating for shared use.
- Also conducting panhandling education and alternative giving campaign in an effort to educate the public, encourage them to rethink giving directly to panhandlers and provide and publicize alternative giving mechanisms.

Medford, Oregon

- January 1, 2007 – ban on soliciting at following locations
 - On private property without the owner's permission.
 - At intersections with traffic signals.
 - Within 50 feet of an ATM.
 - In public transportation vehicles.
 - In public parking lots.
 - At a line of five or more people waiting to gain admission to a place.
- ACLU suing City – violation of free speech
 - The Medford ordinance prohibits solicitation for certain purposes including for “immediate donations” while allowing solicitation for others. Described by the city as “prohibiting abusive solicitation,” the ordinance makes such activity a criminal misdemeanor.

Nashville, Tennessee

- Downtown Organization runs an education campaign discouraging panhandling (website, brochure, info card, contact card, poster)

Roseburg, Oregon

- Ordinance prohibits a driver or passenger in a vehicle on a highway, road or street within the boundaries of the City of Roseburg to give money or tangible personal property to a pedestrian; and
- A pedestrian cannot accept, receive or retain possession of any money or tangible personal property from a driver or passenger in a vehicle on a highway, road or street within the boundaries of the City of Roseburg.
- A traffic violation punishable by a fine not to exceed \$75.00

Denver, Colorado

- Illegal to sit or lie in the public right of way downtown from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (disabled people are exempted).
- Panhandlers barred from entering any traffic lane citywide.
- Panhandling outlawed within 20 feet of sidewalk eateries.
- March 2007, Denver Public Works along with Denver's Road Home, alumni of Leadership Denver, Downtown Denver Partnership, Mile High United Way, and local businesses worked together to refurbish and redesign 36 parking meters that are placed at various areas downtown to allow people to easily give spare change to the effort to end homelessness.
 - Each meter is adopted by a business for \$1,000
 - Money raised from the meters supports Denver's Ten-Year Plan
- Homeless court for loitering and panhandling offenses
- Two police officers assigned to homeless outreach
- Religious congregations have become "support teams" for homeless families, offering things like daycare and car repairs

Dallas, Texas

- City ordinances prohibits panhandling, either verbal or written, from occurring within 25 feet of:
 - a fuel pump;
 - an ATM;
 - an entrance to a financial institution;
 - a public pay phone;
 - a public transportation spot;
 - a self-service car wash;
 - in and around outdoor dining areas;
 - to occupants of vehicles on public streets; and
 - in any location after sunset in the City of Dallas.
- December 2007, launched *Lend an Hand* education/fundraising program to fight panhandling
 - 1st phase focus on downtown (brochures, coasters in downtown restaurants, web site, posters placed in downtown kiosks and ground level storefronts
 - 2nd phase consists of converted parking meters as on-street donation units (modeled after program in Denver)

San Francisco, California

- Ordinance revised in November 2003 to prohibit:
 - Solicitation in an aggressive manner in any public place;
 - Solicitation within twenty feet of any entrance or exit of any check cashing business or within twenty feet of ATM;
 - Solicitation of an occupant of a motor vehicle while such vehicle is located on any street or highway on-ramp or off-ramp; and
 - Solicitation in any public transportation vehicle, or in any public or private parking lot or structure.
- Officer must warn the person that his or her conduct is in violation of this ordinance and must give the person an opportunity to comply with the provisions of this ordinance before a citing or arresting a person
- Can be cited as misdemeanor or infraction, but also emphasized referring people to drug-diversion or mental health programs.
- May 2008, installed 10 converted parking meters for on-street donations; money to be divided among local non-profits.

Evanston, Illinois

- 2001 Ordinance states it is unlawful to panhandle at the following locations:
 - Bus stops
 - In any public transportation facility
 - In a vehicle which is parked or stopped on a public street or alley
 - In a sidewalk café
 - Within 20 feet of an ATM or bank
- Does not include passively standing or sitting or performing music, singing or other street performance with a sign, without any vocal request
- Brochure outlining ordinance and anti-panhandling strategy

Orlando, Florida

- 1997 – Required panhandlers to get permits
- 2000 – Did away with permit system and painted 36 blue boxes on the sidewalks. Panhandling is only allowed within the 3 foot by 15 foot rectangles
- 2003 – Began undercover stings to arrest “aggressive panhandlers”

PLEASE HELP



REDIRECT YOUR GENEROSITY

- Giving to panhandlers is a **LOSE-LOSE** situation. You lose because they often use your money to support their addictions to alcohol and drugs. They lose by continuing these destructive behaviors rather than seeking help. The more you give your change to panhandlers, the more their lives don't change.
- Food (*more than 50 scheduled group meals each week*) is readily available for those in need, as well as shelter and other support services.
- Supporting the local organizations that provide these services is the best way to help. Less than \$200 can make possible one week of transitional housing for someone in need.
- Invest in long-term solutions by giving your financial support and volunteering your time to local helping organizations and service providers.

(615) 743-3090

www.nashvilledowntown.com/pleasehelp

RESPONDING TO PANHANDLERS

- Panhandling in general is not illegal in Nashville, but aggressive behavior is illegal.
- If you feel threatened or the panhandler shows aggressive behavior*, immediately call 615-862-8600 for police assistance.
- When you encounter a panhandler, always walk with certainty and confidence.
- Make eye contact and acknowledge the person with a nod.
- Choose to respond politely, "If you dial 2-1-1, they can help you" or simply say, "no" or "sorry."
- If you want to offer panhandlers something, consider bottled water or food gift certificates rather than money.

PANHANDLING IS NOT THE ANSWER

For links to local service organizations, visit:
www.nashvilledowntown.com/pleasehelp

** Aggressive behavior by a panhandler:*

- (1) persistence after receiving a negative response — closely following and continuing to solicit money;*
- (2) intentionally touching or causing physical contact with a person while asking for money;*
- (3) using violent or threatening gestures, profane or abusive language; or*
- (4) intentionally blocking or interfering with someone's safe or free passage along a sidewalk or street.*



Meals, Shelters and Other Assistance

EntryPoint, 800-439-6691

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, this program provides outreach into our streets with services to homeless individuals and families in Evanston. EntryPoint staff work with the Evanston Police Department beat officers. EntryPoint is located at 607 Lake, Evanston, and is a program of Connections for Homelessness.

Lunch

- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sundays – 3pm, 1004 Greenwood, 847-475-3403
- Second Baptist Church, Mondays and Tuesdays – Noon, 1717 Benson, 847-869-6955
- Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Thursdays – 11:30am, 1109 Emerson, 847-328-1707
- Springfield Missionary Baptist Church, Fridays – Noon, 1801 Emerson, 847-328-9778
- First Presbyterian Church, Saturdays – 11:30am, 1427 Chicago, 847-864-1472

Dinner

- Good News Community Church, weekdays – 5:30pm, Sundays – 5pm, 7649 N. Paulina, Chicago, 773-262-2297
- Hemenway United Methodist Church, Tuesdays – 4:30pm, 933 Chicago, 847-328-2600
- First United Methodist Church, Thursdays – 6pm, 1630 Himman, 847-864-6181

Overnight Shelter

- Hilda's Place, a program of Connections for Homelessness, intake at 2pm Mon. - Fri., 607 Lake, 847-424-0945, ext. 11

Contact any of these agencies to offer financial or other assistance.

Morning Shelter

- St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Monday - Saturday, 7 - 11am, 1509 Ridge, 847-869-0370

Afternoon Shelters

(November through March only)

- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mondays – 1 - 3:30pm, 1004 Greenwood, 847-475-3403
- First Presbyterian Church, Mondays – 3:30 - 7pm, 1427 Chicago, 847-864-1472
- Bethany Baptist Church, Tuesdays – 1 - 7pm, 1225 Elmwood, 847-864-6689
- St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wednesdays – 1 - 5pm, 1421 Oak, 847-864-0333
- First Congregational Church, Thursdays – 1 - 6pm, 1417 Himman, 847-864-8332

Substance Abuse Counseling

- Peer Services, 906 Davis, 847-492-1778

General Assistance

- Salvation Army, 1403 Sherman, 847-866-9770
- Evanston Police Department Social Service Bureau, 1454 Elmwood, 847-866-5016

Police Assistance

If you have been confronted by an aggressive panhandler, or have any questions regarding this ordinance and its enforcement, please call the Evanston Police Department at 847-866-5000.



Evanston's Anti-Panhandling Strategy

What you should know.

- It considers **everyone's** constitutional rights
- It recognizes Evanston's sensitivity to those in need
- It offers assistance through an established network of local agencies and religious institutions
- It holds individuals responsible for inappropriate behavior
- It attempts to protect the public from unwanted panhandling and aggressive panhandling

Partners:

- Evanston Police Department
- EntryPoint, a program of Connections for Homelessness
- City of Evanston

An Overview of the Anti-Panhandling Ordinance

Evanston community leaders recognize that the problems of homelessness and panhandling are not necessarily related. To address homelessness, community groups have united in the Evanston tradition of care and compassion to provide resources, listed on reverse, that empower people and families to achieve self-sufficiency.

To address the issue of panhandling, the City of Evanston has passed an ordinance that prohibits panhandling in certain areas and while exhibiting certain behavior.

Panhandling is:

any request for an immediate donation of money or other gratuity made in person upon any street, public place or park in the City. This includes but is not limited to seeking immediate donations:

- 1) By vocal appeal or for music, singing or other street performance, and
- 2) Where the person being solicited receives an item of little or no monetary value in exchange for a donation, under circumstances where a reasonable person would understand that the transaction is in substance a donation.

Panhandling does not include passively standing or sitting or performing music, singing or other street performance with a sign or other designation that a donation is being sought, without any vocal request other than in response to an inquiry by another person.

It is unlawful to engage in panhandling...

only when either the panhandler or the person being solicited is located at any of the following locations:

- at a bus stop;
- in any public transportation facility;
- in a vehicle which is parked or stopped on a public street or alley;
- in a sidewalk café;
- within 20 feet in any direction from an automatic teller machine or entrance to a bank.

It is unlawful at all times to engage in aggressive panhandling, defined as:

- 1) panhandling* a person at an automatic teller machine while within 10 feet of that person.
- 2) panhandling* a person within 15 seconds after the person leaves an automatic teller machine.

- 3) repeating a panhandling* request when the person solicited is stationary and has refused an immediately prior request made at that location.
- 4) touching a solicited person without consent either before, during or after a panhandling* request.

- 5) panhandling* while blocking the path of the person solicited, such as the entrance to a building.

- 6) following the person solicited during or after the panhandling* request.

- 7) directing profane or abusive language at the person being panhandled*.

- 8) acting or making any statement besides the panhandling* request, in which circumstances, i.e. darkness, would cause a reasonable person to feel harassed, intimidated, or compelled to contribute.

**As defined in the Ordinance.*

Penalties

A violation of this code is punishable by a fine or community service.

You may obtain a copy of this Ordinance at the Evanston Civic Center, City Clerk's Office, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201.



Please find another way to give.

**Most panhandlers
in Evanston
are struggling with
substance abuse
and are not homeless.**

Instead, we encourage you to give to Evanston organizations that provide assistance, meals, and shelter. To learn more, contact:

Evanston Chamber of Commerce
www.evchamber.com
847-328-1500

EVmark
www.evmark.org
847-570-4724

Evanston Police Department
www.evanstonpolice.com
847-866-5000



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